

Comments on petition:

RM-10811

FISTS CW Club

Nancy A. Kott

WZ8C

Petition Specific Comments

The petition comment "The number of contestors using CW is growing" is accurate and proves that Morse code is desired within the Amateur Radio testing structure.

"Increase the technical skills required on the written exams." That the petition suggests is warranted and desired by most Amateurs.

"Failure to keep Morse code testing part of the licensing structure undermines many core activities integral to the Amateur Radio service and nullifies one of the principal objectives of the Service, i.e. to train a"reserve pool of qualified operators and technicians." Is a point well stated by FISTS.

FISTS also states that young people are drawn to Morse code and have a high interest in Morse code.

I have given many presentations about Amateur Radio to civic groups and the Boy Scouts of America and the Morse code demonstration is the most intriguing part of Amateur Radio to young people. Young people like Morse code and Morse code is actually drawing young people into Amateur Radio and not the opposite that some suggest.

The program by the ARRL to bring Amateur Radio into schools across the country is a very positive contribution to Amateur Radio and has resulted in many young people obtaining licenses. Morse code has not reduced this influx of young people into Amateur Radio.

Giving Technician licensees Morse code and digital privileges within the Novice segments has merit.

My opinion has been that a combination Novice/Technician license would have benefited Amateur Radio much more than the current no-code license, however the international treaty prevented that until now.

The FISTS petition suggests increasing the technical content of the three current tests, and I agree. The current tests have been simplified and have been reduced in technical content over the years, a trend that needs to be reversed.

Of all of the petitions submitted to date, Petition RM-10811 from the FISTS CW Club, Nancy A. Kott, is the best written and is completely within line with the desires of the majority of Amateur Radio operators in the United States.

I whole heartedly support FISTS petition RM-10811.

General Comments

I support retaining Morse code as a testing requirement for Amateur Radio licenses within the United States of America. Morse code is still an integral part of Amateur Radio and is widely used by many people.

As Section Manager for the ARRL in the Western New York section, I conducted a survey of approximately 300 Amateurs. A full seventy percent 70% support retaining Morse Code as a testing requirement in the USA. Over sixty percent (60%) of those who are no-code licensees (Technician) support keeping Morse Code as a testing requirement.

As a compromise solution I propose changing the operating privileges of the Technician license class to include limited voice and Morse code frequency allocations in the 1.8 to 30MHz Amateur bands, and retain the 5 word per minute Morse code examination for both the General and Extra class licenses. A combination of Novice and Technician privileges for the no-code Technician license has merit.

As a W5YI and ARRL volunteer examiner, Morse code is not a testing burden as some claim, since there is only one test to administer for all license classes that require the test.

The argument that other commercial and military services have dropped Morse code is of no relevance to Amateur Radio, since these services are distinctly different with different obligations and requirements, and this premise should be dismissed as irrelevant to Amateur Radio.

Organizations such as the ARRL, W5YI and all others within the NCVEC, have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in dropping the Morse code testing requirement, and therefore any petition from these organizations or including these organizations should be reviewed carefully. Some of the organizations within the NCVEC have employment concerns and therefore present an unfortunate conflict of interest for these organizations.

Other organizations within the NCVEC stand to benefit monetarily from the greater number of Amateurs expected by eliminating Morse code.

Eliminating Morse code to make more money or to gain membership is not an adequate reason for making a change in the Morse code requirements.

The Federal Communications Commission FCC must not let Amateur Radio turn into another citizen's band. The FCC while having good intentions at the time with the technology of the time, created a monster in allowing a citizen's band to be created in the 26 to 27 MHz spectrum. The citizen's band is an embarrassment to the FCC and to the USA and cannot be repeated by eliminating the Morse code requirement for Amateur Radio.

Summary

Keeping Morse code as a testing requirement for the General and Extra class licenses is consistent with the desire of the majority

of Amateur Radio operators in the United States.

Petition RM-10811 by the FISTS CW Club, Nancy A. Kott WZ8C is the best written petition and completely addresses the wishes, desires and concerns of the majority of Amateur Radio operators in the United States.

Adopt RM-10811.

Respectfully,

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